



PATRICK MADAN.

Published, as the Act. Directs May 26 1781



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THE
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O F
Patrick Madan;

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Exhibiting a Series of the most extraordinary Transactions, notorious Villanies, and wonderful Escapes, that ever happened to one Man.

Comprizing a Series of Events equally calculated to astonish the Mind, and lead the Heart to Virtue, by exhibiting the Deformity of Vice.

With Reflections naturally arising from the Subject; and Hints, which if attended to, will tend greatly to the Suppression of every Species of Theft.

L O N D O N :



Printed for ALEXANDER HOGG, Pater-Noster-Row,
and sold by all Booksellers and News-carriers.

[PRICE ONE SHILLING.]

Whoever reads this Pamphlet, and considers the Price of the Engraving, must be convinced, that it is published from better Motives than those of *Gain*, having for its Object *public Benefit*, and *private Security*.

To the Right Honourable the
Lords Spiritual and Tem-
poral, and the Members of
the House of Commons in
Parliament assembled.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

IF the writer of the following nar-
rative, did not think it contained
some hints worthy the notice of the
legislature, he would not have pre-
sumed to have dedicated it to so high
an authority.

Our penal laws have been often
complained of, as too sanguinary.
Perhaps this publication may prove,
that, in one instance at least, they
have been too lenient.

It cannot be unreasonable to sup-
pose, that if pardons for capital of-
fences were less frequent, these
offences

offences would decrease: but if I conceive aright, theft itself might be almost abolished, if proper attention was paid to the education of the infant poor. The gibbet is rarely burthened with the weight of one, who has had the blessing of a religious and virtuous education.

I can truly assert, that the following narrative is not only founded on fact, but is *fact itself*.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

T H E

L I F E, &c.

TH E great number of robberies that are daily committed, not only evince the ungovernable turpitude of moral evil, but at the same time alarmingly inform us of the inadequacy of our laws to sustain that even system of government, the desirable end for which they were framed.

When we affirm this, we are under the necessity of adding, that though the present scale of political institutions does not extend to an absolute and intire suppression of evil, which experience teaches, is beyond the power of human wisdom to perform; yet it must readily be acknowledged, that the wholesome and restrictive laws already in force, are calculated to accomplish, infinitely more than they do; a melancholy fact this, solely origi-

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nating from the loose and defective manner of carrying many of them into execution; we presume, that whoever will give themselves the trouble of casting their eyes over the long and rigid list of penal statutes, will, without much difficulty, concur in the propriety of this remark.

Though it is not our province here to obtrude a treatise on civil government, nor our wish to censure in the gross, those intrusted with its executive departments; yet to convince our readers, that what we here venture to assert, is not mere declamation, and that we have some grounds for what we have taken upon ourselves to censure; we shall just mention a few of those abuses which we trust will be considered, as more particularly belonging to the subject we are now presenting to the public, and as having an immediate reference to the subject matter it contains.

In a metropolis extensive as this of Great-Britain, where such unremitting temptations to dissipation are hourly presenting themselves, and such frequent opportunities necessarily offer to invite the idle to make up the deficiencies, their neglect of industry has occasioned, by committing depredations on the property
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of those who expose their various commodities to sale; the magistrate ought to be peculiarly attentive to the important trust with which he is invested, and see that every officer under his direction, minutely discharges his duty in suppressing every infringement on peace and good order, however insignificant it may, in the first instance, appear. It is an unfortunate truth, that the *attendants* on the many offices of the *police*, are totally regardless of the progressive steps to *prebeminence* in vice, and hold it far beneath the *dignity* of their *profession* to stoop to the detection of any crime of less magnitude than a CAPITAL OFFENCE: the fact is, when the *conviction* of a culprit is to be followed by a *reward*, the *people* we are speaking of, are *warm* in the pursuit of *justice*; but when nothing is to be derived, exceeding in substance the satisfaction every good citizen feels on having done his duty, villains may, for them, multiply their depredations with impunity.

By this shameful neglect of wickedness in its infant state, novices in goals are nurtured into maturity and to this almost alone is the gallows indebted for the numerous pale victims she receives; which, but for the mild

interposition of royal clemency, (concerning the direction of which, we shall say something hereafter) would be beyond credibility immense. A circumstance which, surely merits a parliamentary investigation; for in vain, or to little purpose, may our ministers lay plans for the external defence of a kingdom, whose internals are constantly on the decay.

We are happy here in joining with the public, in commendation of that ingenious member of the lower house, who from his attention to the regulation of the *police*, has shewn that he has as much skill in the complex management of a state, as in the no less intricate business of a theatre; and we hope we shall not be considered as heaping on him unmerited praise, when we say he bids as fair to be as eminent, in his legislative, as he deservedly is in his dramatic capacity.

As an abuse, or neglect of our religious duties must necessarily be productive of the greatest prejudice to the state, it is greatly to be lamented, that those laws which the pious wisdom of our ancestors have provided against the profanation of the Lord's day, are not strictly put in force; and our readers we presume, will not think us impertinently digressive,
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in turning our thoughts to the bill now in agitation in parliament, which may be considered as a supplement to those laws, and which we hope will meet with the universal concurrence it justly merits. We are sorry to be obliged to say, that the *theological* and *Christian* meetings, as they are termed, the suppression of which, the bill has in view, are all of them been, in the first instance, set on foot for the interested purpose of bringing a few six-pences into the pockets of half a dozen speakers, by whose *sublime oratory* they have been principally upheld. If this was the only mischief resulting, perhaps it would be beneath the notice of the legislature; but when it is a known fact, that in these *modern religious seminaries*, a latitude of *railing* at the scriptures is used, which if it does not ultimately tend to their subversion, must greatly invalidate them with the unthinking multitude; and when it is a known fact also, that in these nurseries of atheism, the profligate free-thinker may give birth to his dangerous tenets, and by the aids of sophistry, bring into disrepute among fools, those divine precepts, by the just severity of which he knows he cannot stand; and that the unlightened and illiterate have a *right*,
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by virtue of the price they have paid for their admission, to insult all order and decency for *five minutes* (the stipulated time to harangue without interruption) by arrogantly attempting to explain TEXTS which they cannot read;—it certainly will be allowed, they are evils which challenge loudly the interposition of the whole legislative body of the kingdom.

As in a pamphlet of this kind, our aim is not only to relate the villainous transactions of the Hero whose life it contains, but to afford such hints by which the further progress of his successors of the *predatory order* may be impeded; we shall make no apology for detaining our readers a little longer, before we enter into the narrative: and particularly, as our intention for so doing, is to exemplify the shameful neglect alluded to in a preceding part of it. Our readers must recollect our having said, that we did not mean to censure in the gross; and there cannot a better opportunity offer than the present, of doing that justice to the magistrates of Bow-street, to which they are indisputably intitled. Messrs. Wright and Addington, brought up under the late able magistrate Sir John Fielding, have a very just and comprehensive knowledge
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of the respectable and important departments in which they act; and several of their people, particularly Mr. Bond and Mr. Clark, from their vigilant and upright conduct, have not only merited the thanks of the public, but have very properly received a reward from Government, for the usefulness of their labours; and have also done away that odium to their calling, by which, in sound reasoning and good policy, it never should have been disgraced: for to ascribe odium indiscriminately, to such as are dangerously employed in detecting rogues, and who are principally instrumental in bringing them to condign punishment, is in fact, a species of absurd justification of the villains, whose views they decry.

We heartily wish we could bestow the same commendation on the whole of the attendants of the different offices of the police, as we have done on that above-mentioned; but we have indisputable authority for our guide, when we assert, that many, whose names we could lay before the public, constantly associate, and in open day, with rogues of every denomination, from the *pick-pocket* to the *burglar*; and though these guardians of the
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peace are necessarily, from the *connection*, well informed that their associates have none but this *VISIBLE* method of getting their daily bread, they suffer them, unless stimulated by reward, to proceed without molestation or restraint; but when any of the unhappy wretches in question, *weigh*, as they themselves emphatically term it, *forty*, the connection drops, and all ties of *reciprocal* esteem and friendship, in a moment vanish. The poor misguided culprit, whom a timely check would have preserved as an useful member of society, is dragged to prison, and every *possible* exertion made to hasten his ignominious death; in celebration of which, the departed wretch's merciless detectors, set down, to what is among themselves technically called a *BLOOD FEAST*.

It is but common justice to remark here, in behalf of the unhappy prisoner, that as the generality of those whose office it is to apprehend thieves, are destitute of every principle of integrity as well as mercy, too much circumspection cannot be paid to the evidence, which in criminal matters they shall give; and the court, and the prosecutor, should be peculiarly nice in adopting such suggestions, as their evidence may give birth to: indeed,

were their characters out of question, the idea of the influence of reward, ought greatly to invalidate, if not totally destroy and render null their oaths, unless when supported by the creditable testimony of other witnesses.

When we asserted, that indiscriminate odium should not be ascribed to the office of a THIEF-TAKER, we trust we were certainly right in our position; but we could not be understood to mean that *characters*, such as we have just mentioned to have existence, should pass unnoticed; at the same time, we cannot but heartily recommend, that a regulation of the abuses we have laid before the public, without the least exaggeration, should immediately be set on foot: and the only effectual method we can advise for the accomplishment of so great and desirable an amendment, for is Government to allow every Bench of Justices a certain number of men, who should be picked at the discretion of the Justices, and who should be paid such sums per week as should be judged adequate to the labours they had to perform. These men should all of them have good characters, and over them should be one, whose salary should exceed the rest, to see that they *did their duty*.

These people should never be allowed to associate with thieves under any pretext whatever; the danger and ill consequences of which, have been already shewn; but they should bring before the Magistrate, every person they should find in actual violation of the peace. But as we find much greater difficulty in projecting plans for the management of good order, than in decrying those already in use; and as we observed in the outset of our performance, that it was not our province to treat at large, a subject of such intricacy and importance, as the government of a people; we shall hasten to the particular subject which induced us to take pen in hand; hoping that what we have previously advanced, will not be considered as useless or inapplicable to the work in general.

It has been objected to the lives of such persons as have obtruded themselves on the notice of the public, by the enormity of their crimes alone, that at the time they give information, they become a clue to *Tyros* in iniquity, and suggest to them *species* of *frauds*, which otherwise they would never have thought of: if this was really the case, it would be a sufficient reason for the suppression of every publication
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of the present nature; but this objection in reality, does not exist, and we are pretty certain in our assertion, when we advance, that among the predatory tribe, of which our hero was a member, any additional discovery in their art, in consequence of the *professional amity and correspondence*, carried on between them, spreads with too much celerity for them to wait for the slow information of literal tradition. But admitting for a moment the truth of the objection, when it is considered, that, at the time we are developing the various artifices daily put in practice, to rob the honest and strip the unwary, we are putting them upon their guard, and augmenting the defence of their property, it must necessarily fall to the ground; firmly persuaded of this truth, we shall, without further preface or apology, proceed to our work.

PATRICK MADAN, the subject of our present memoirs, owes his birth to a country, which, at the time, it is notoriously known, that she produces heroes, or first rate characters of every denomination, she is equally remarkable for a loose, disorderly, savage sett of
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beings, which she annually exports to her sister kingdom : he was born of honest parents, who taught him only to read and write : we do not learn that he was bred to any handicraft business in his native country, nor have we ever found that he had any particular reason for abdicating it ; unless indeed we assign, the commendable one of *bettering his fortune* ; certain it is, that when he first paid England a visit, which was as near as we can learn, about fourteen years since, he betook himself to industry for support ; and as the rage for building had not at that time entirely subsided, he found no difficulty in getting employ as a bricklayer's-labourer ; but the low profits of the *hod*, not proving adequate to his wishes, or perhaps his expectations, he gave way to the vicious, though not idle sport of *flying blue pigeons* (that is, stealing lead from off the tops of houses) in which species of theft (incidental to the profession,) he became in a short time so notorious, that no builder would suffer him to mount a ladder ; not as it has been jocosely observed to him, that it was apprehended he would *break his neck*, for such a catastrophe would only be anticipating the business of the halter, which was at that time said to be impending

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pending over him. In this situation, our hero was reduced to the triple alternative of *starving, going for a soldier, or commencing robber at large*. As it may easily be presumed he did not suffer the first long to engage his consideration, the second, though for which he is by nature framed, as possessing strength and resolution in a very eminent degree, proved as little conformable to his *taste* as the former; therefore by a kind of *fatality* he was impelled, having exhausted choice upon the latter. At this period, he was about nineteen years of age, possessing, as just above hinted, a strength of body, accompanied with the most daring resolution, *accomplishments* which necessarily pointed him out as the leader of a gang; accordingly, he had no sooner thrown off all restraint, and stood in open defiance of all law and justice, than a number of thieves of lesser *consequence* gladly hastened to his STANDARD. Having now under his direction a little army of desperadoes, well skilled in every department of their calling, he would select them according to the species of theft he was going upon. From our having mentioned him as the leader or commander of a gang, perhaps some of our readers may conclude, that

that he assumed to himself an absolute power over the rest; and that like OTHER *commanders*, he took to himself more than an equal allowance of the plunder they in conjunction made: but we can assure our readers, that this is not the unjust practice among *thieves*, who all of them agree, that, as the danger and labour in acquiring their spoils is the same to all, that the profits arising from them should be equitably divided; and in fact, for any one to cheat the rest in the division of the profits, is not easily practicable, as they have all equally access to the person who buys the goods they have stolen. It sometimes happens (which is a very *extraordinary* circumstance indeed, that one rascal will take, *in the way of trade*, advantage of another; but it as constantly follows, that he is as generally *reprobated* for the *perfidy* of his conduct, never losing sight of that *adage*, which says, there is “honour among thieves.”

A species of fraud, in which our hero has been very successful, is as follows: he would dress himself in the character of a country Esquire, wearing a drab suit of clothes, and boots, and carrying a large silver capped whip, would fall forth with one or two of

his younger fraternity, and go into a silver-smith's or toy-shop, appearing as if he had just come to town with *young master*, to shew him the varieties of London; this they would do when the shops were first opening in the morning, as a time on which they found the shop-keeper least upon his guard; having called for a particular shew-glass, in which were deposited some valuable articles, he would begin as follows: "Well, young gentleman, now I have brought you to town, I suppose you'll put me to a world of expence; however, as I promised you a present, I don't know that a *better* opportunity than the *present* will offer to perform that promise." Here *papa* and *son* begin to finger the tempting articles exhibited by the unthinking shopman to their view; after a few tricks of slight of hand peculiar to themselves, the young gentleman affects to rest his choice upon some expensive bauble, and strongly solicits his *father* to purchase it for his use. The *father* here demands the price? Which on being told, he seems to be greatly surprized; and replies, "Indeed, *Tom*, I can't lay my money out at any such rate;" and immediately desires, that the show-glass or drawer may be removed;

removed ; calling at the same time for another, containing something less expensive. To this second glass or drawer, the one solely confines his attention, while the other is industriously purloining the valuable contents of the first ; having perpetrated what they went upon, the *father* pretends to be in haste, pays for some trifling article; when out they go, pop into a hackney coach that has been in waiting for them, and drive away with all possible expedition to some other part of the town to play the same game.

Another species of theft, in which our hero has acquired sums to an incredible amount, is, what is *professionally* termed *going upon the drag* ; it consists in the following practice.---Two or three habilitated as countrymen or tradesmen, go from five to thirty miles out of town in a small cart, following at a proper distance some country waggon ; into which, one of the gang contrives to get admittance, and assisted by the darkness of the night, generally accomplishes his purpose ; the person appointed to this office, is usually a shabby looking boy, who is supposed, if discovered by the driver of the waggon, to have got in merely to ride. The villain having taken his
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post, immediately begins to remove such parcels and boxes as he can manage, throwing them out at the tail of the waggon; the which, as the cart passes, are taken in. Having by this method loaded their vehicle with as much as it will well carry, they turn about, and drive to town without dread or molestation.

Sometimes they effect their purpose, by following the waggon without entering it; and by cutting the fastenings, find means to strip from it part of its contents. Waggoners, therefore, when they perceive any persons that have followed them for some distance, should be particularly on their guard: a fierce dog, or a little boy placed in the tail of the waggon, would necessarily impede this species of thievery, and consequently secure the property the waggon contains.

The following fact carries with it a sort of retributive justice, and may certainly be considered as a retaliation for an insult, and indeed an injury received.

One of Madan's female accomplices, led by the prevalent curiosity of the sex, went to one of our profound enquirers into futurity, to learn if possible, what *fate* had in reservation for her *husband*; on being told in very

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plain terms by honest Albumazar, "that his line of life was of a very dangerous nature, and of a standing exceedingly precarious indeed;" she ran back to him, and with a countenance replete with sorrow, discovered all she had been made acquainted with; begging that he would confine his depredations in future, within the extent of petit larceny; adding in a truly pathetic stile, that the *conjurer* had further told her, that he could plainly discern in the unfavourable aspect of her husband's ruling star, that he would certainly make a violent and unexpected exit from this life; but in what manner he should die, the *fates* had not determined.

Madan, as may very well be supposed, not relishing this *prediction*, though a little startled at first, quickly entered into a firm resolution to be revenged, and to try at the same time the validity of the fortune-teller's art, in a manner, of which, with all his great knowledge in events not yet arrived, he little dreamed of. Accordingly, Madan desired his wife to go a second time in search of what was to be done to him hereafter, not to mind what it cost her, but to be sure to keep the
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fortune-teller as long as possible on his planetary researches.

The woman having taken her *cue*, in pursuance of her husband's injunction, went in quest of further knowledge, and was followed by Madan, and one of his companions. This was in the dusk of the evening; and the wife having got admittance, after waiting a seasonable time, Madan and his confederate, by the assistance of a picklock-key, entered also; and while poor Albumazar was busied more than ordinarily in his *aërial* investigations, totally regardless of all *terrestrial* concerns, they found an opportunity of stripping him of every thing valuable in his possession, leaving him only (which indeed they could not help) the implements of his trade as a consolation. This story, Madan would frequently relate to his companions, exultingly remarking at the same time, that the *prediction* gave him no concern; for that, little reliance could be placed on the pretensions of that man's knowledge of *future* events, that, as had been proved, was found to be totally ignorant of the present.

Our hero had now gone on for some years, meeting with such success as is rarely to be

found in the practice, in which he so conspicuously shone; he had not only acquired a sort of respect and celebrity among his own order, but he had accumulated also a very considerable sum of money, not being worth less than between fourteen and sixteen hundred pounds; and happy would it have been for him, if at this crisis, he had retrospectively weighed his past offences, and shrunk from the danger of future exploits; but this is a degree of virtue, or discretion rather, which though both common prudence and the extreme hazard of his practice dictated, that seldom any of the fraternity arrive at.

There seems to be, as experience evinces, a kind of fatality hanging over them; and JUSTICE, as it were, having once been violated to a criminal degree, awfully pursues her victims, till she has taken ample restitution for the injuries she has received. This is an alarming fact, that ought to engage the serious attention of such young persons, whose principles may be unsettled; perhaps, that ninety-nine out of an hundred, who have been once dipped in the dark depths of iniquity, never emerge again, till irresistibly impelled by *exile* or the prospect of the *fatal cord*.

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As a striking example, among a thousand, we could give of the truth of our assertion, we shall mention what Lambert Reading said on the occasion, a man of nearly equal note with the subject of our present memoirs. When he was examined for the offence for which he suffered, by Sir John Fielding, that worthy magistrate told him, that he might prepare himself for death, for that his time was now come; and conclusively observed, “that as he had run so many risks of his life, had been so long a thief, had been a witness to so many examples of terrific justice, exhibited in the execution of his own companions; and had, as by all accounts, acquired large sums of money, it was a matter of great astonishment, that he had not retreated from the enormity of his crimes, and have endeavoured to live honest.” The unfortunate prisoner replied, “that he had most certainly ran a long and dangerous career in iniquity; that justice had overtaken him at last; but that had he been permitted to have lived to the years of Methuselah, he never should have desisted from his pernicious practice: saying, he had made many efforts while under easy circumstances, but in vain; and adding, that
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it was his firm belief, that no man who had been unhappy enough to escape detection until he had been skilled in the practice of thieving, ever left it off, till, like him, they were fatally compelled *."

But to return to Madan, who, as we have observed, had pursued an uninterrupted course of iniquity for some years; but fortune now began to desert him, and give him up to all the horrors unavoidably incidental to his iniquitous course of life.

In the year 1774, we find Madan, who after having escaped justice for a multitude of various robberies he had committed, arraigned at the bar of the Old Bailey for a crime of which he was totally innocent. The circumstances attending the whole of this singular transaction, are worthy of peculiar attention, and are as follow: but before we enter into a recital of them, we shall just beg to recal our readers to a recollection of a very necessary hint given a few pages back, viz. In speaking of

* There was a remarkable concatenation of events attending the end of this unhappy man, that are worthy of remembrance:

He committed a burglary on the Monday, was apprehended on the Tuesday, was examined on the Wednesday, and sent to Chelmsford on the Thursday, was tried and cast on Friday, and executed on Saturday.

of the conduct of those persons belonging to the different offices of the police, we said, that too much circumspection could not be paid to the testimony they in criminal matters give; and that both the court and the jury, ought to be peculiarly nice in adopting any suggestions their evidence might give rise to: we may add, that when such persons have the principal management of a capital prosecution, which is too frequently the case, the unfortunate object of that prosecution, does not stand upon a fair trial; for though he is tried by God and his country, he is *cast* by those who derive an immediate interest in his conviction. The propriety of these remarks cannot be better exemplified, than in what we are going to relate. In June 1774, W. B. was stopped in the City road by two footpads, and robbed of a coat and waistcoat, and about forty shillings in money, with which the robbers got clear off. B. on his return to town, went to a magistrate, and gave information of the same; and having described, as accurately as his recollection would suffer him, the persons by whom he had been robbed, some of the magistrate's people went in search of them, and knowing

Madan,

Madan, they seized upon him, with one Michael Brannon, and brought them before the prosecutor, who deposed to the identity of their persons. The fatal consequence that followed, was the capital conviction of the parties at the Old Bailey. Brannon, who was a principal in the fact, was respited, and afterwards experienced the mildness of a conditional pardon to serve abroad; and Madan, who was absolutely innocent, was ordered for execution; and most assuredly would have suffered, but for the following extraordinary interposition in his favour; in which is evinced, that the very dregs of society are not so entirely depraved, but they are capable, at times, of the most exalted acts of friendship. An abandoned fellow, one Amos Merrit, who had long been obnoxious to society, for the many daring robberies he had committed, was the identical person, who, in conjunction with Brannon, had committed the robbery for which Madan was unjustly about to suffer. This circumstance being well known to the fraternity at large, of whom, as we have before observed, Madan was a much respected member, they entered into a resolution to save him in spite of every impediment that should offer; and
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accordingly had several meetings on the occasion. The time of execution was now swiftly approaching, and various methods of extrication were proposed, revolved, and rejected as impracticable; time still went on, and nothing lay before this *respectable* assembly, but the gloomy prospect of seeing their much valued friend *murdered*. In this dilemma, poor Madan was visited by some of his companions; to inform him, with truly aching hearts, of the little hopes there were of effecting their generous intentions: Madan kindly thanked them; and was then heard to say, that "he wished he had paid more regard to the *prediction* of the *fortune-teller*, who, he was now convinced, must have dealings with the devil, and a devilish trick;" he said, "they played him, to hang him for a crime of which he was quite innocent." The night preceding the fatal morning, had now arrived, when every one of Madan's friends expressed their sorrow for what they could not prevent, and were on the point of breaking up their counsel, as their *different avocations* directed; when one of them, an old staunch member, started up, (what we are now relating, we can assure our readers, is

near literally fact) and said, he had hit upon a method that would inevitably save their friend; a faint gleam of joy, mixed with an anxious doubt, was visible in every face, and every one at the same time, swore they would do every thing in their power to effect so desirable a purpose; silence being vociferously called for, the man just before mentioned, broke forth as follows: “ My worthy *palls*, we have all of us seen a great deal of danger; there is scarce one of us, but what has *worked* with Madan, and there is some of us *that is* here present, that knows what it is to be *knocked down for the crap*, without any *hopes of coming off*; now you *knows* the *bloody cull*, that *did him over*, must have *bufft home*, or he must have been *turned up*. You see the prosecutor can’t *come it home* a second time, therefore Amos Merrit must go to the place of execution to-morrow morning, and own he did the robbery. As I said before, the prosecutor can’t swear to him, and therefore, little or no harm can come of it;” having finished his harangue, he turned to Merrit, and swore bitterly, if he did not promise to comply, he would blow his brains out; and actually presented a loaded pistol to his

his head; the plan meeting with general approbation, the rest following the example; and Merrit after some little hesitation, consented to do that which they so forcibly requested. The assembly here broke up, fully satisfied with the business they had in part accomplished. The next morning, which was on the 19th of August, Amos Merrit, in pursuance of his promise, followed Patrick Madan to the place of execution; he was accompanied, on this singular occasion, by two of his companions, with whom he had spent the preceding evening; they went with him, not chusing to rely solely on his promise, but were determined to see, and enforce every tittle it contained. Madan had arrived at the fatal tree; and the awful ceremony used previous to launching these unfortunate wretches into eternity, was nearly finished, when Merrit, expressing his apprehensions of the consequence of what he was about to do, seemed to decline what he went upon, and was faltering in his resolution; hereupon, one of his companions drew a knife, and with the most execrable oaths, swore, if he did not instantly stop the execution of Madan, he would run it in his bowels; this had the de-

fired effect, and Merrit, as he afterwards said, from a mixture of fear and justice, co-operating at the same moment, was induced to do as he did : he addressed himself to the under sheriff, and declared in the most solemn terms, that Madan was innocent of the crime for which he was about to suffer ; and that he himself was the guilty person. Mr. Reynolds, the under sheriff, greatly astonished at what he heard, desired Merrit to look at the prisoner, and declare the same aloud. He protested that Madan was innocent, but wavering, denied, that he himself was the guilty person. Merrit was thereupon taken into custody, and Mr. Reynolds was dispatched by order of the Sheriffs, to the Secretary's office, to report the extraordinary circumstance that had happened. On having related that which had passed, he obtained a respite for Madan, which was proclaimed amidst the acclamations of surrounding thousands ; and he was re-conducted to Newgate, accompanied by an amazing concourse of his fellow-creatures, who exhibited that virtuous, heart-felt, tumultuous joy, naturally incidental to the occasion. Merrit was taken before Justice Addington, to whom, he, without hesitation, volun-

voluntarily confessed he had committed the robbery, for which Madan had been cruelly and unjustly convicted. Mr. Addington, being satisfied in what fell from Merrit, committed him to take his trial, which accordingly took place in the September sessions, in the same year, when he was acquitted of that indictment and another. Merrit survived this but a short time, for we find him convicted of burglary, in the December sessions following; and for which, on the 27th of that month, he was executed.

Patrick Madan, was now once more at liberty; but instead of reflecting properly on the miraculous escape he had recently experienced, rushed precipitately again into his former practices; such was the rash conduct, the inherent turpitude of this *Veteran* of the predatory order. However, fortunately for the public, this hero in iniquity, was not permitted to reign long, before he worked himself into confinement once more. On the 2d of February 1775, having been, as we imagine, greatly pushed for money, he attempted, between ten and eleven at night, to rob a lamp-lighter in Moorfields, who not being inclined to give up easily what he had
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about him, a scuffle ensued, in which the latter would have been worsted; but fortunately for him, the watch came up, secured Madan, and put him in the watch-house, which was upon the spot. The foolish lamp-lighter, having lost nothing, and not being inclined to give himself the trouble of prosecuting, went away. Some of Madan's companions, who were upon the look-out, saw the disaster of their friend, went immediately to an house in Golden Lane, where many others were carrousing over their ill-gotten treasure, and informed them of the late occurrence.

Fifty of these desperadoes were collected in less than twenty minutes; and sallying forth, armed with pistols, cutlances, and other desperate weapons, they went immediately to the watch-house, and demanded the prisoner. On being refused, they rushed in, wounded the watchmen; and after having nearly demolished the watch-house, and robbed the constable, bore their companion triumphantly away.

This was too flagrant a violation of the peace, to be permitted to pass with impunity. Accordingly, the most diligent search was made after this formidable banditti, and several

veral of ^{the} them were quickly apprehended ; and among others, was Patrick Madan, at whose instance the riot had been set on foot.

These daring disturbers of the peace, were tried for their offence in the April following, at Hicks's-Hall ; found guilty, and condemned as follows : John Taylor, James Nimmy, and William Hatchman, to be imprisoned seven years in Newgate ; John Morris, Joseph Hawes, Abraham Isaacs, Arthur Levi, John Leroffe, Joseph Ephraims, Thomas Hatchman, and Moses Rebus, to five years imprisonment ; Patrick Madan, was sentenced also to five years imprisonment in the said goal ; and Edward Oliver, to be imprisoned three years. They were conducted from Newgate to Hicks's-Hall, by a strong party of the guards, who attended during their trials, and then re-conducted them to prison.

They all begged hard for transportation ; but this was thought by the court an indulgence of too lenient a nature, to be granted to such daring and formidable wretches ; as every one of these people had experienced the severity of confinement, and some of them had been transported previous to this circumstance ; it may easily be inferred, that no sentence

sentence on this side death, could more severely punish them than confinement.

We have now brought our Hero, within the confines of Newgate a second time; from which place he could not have formed any probable method of extricating himself, but by breaking gaol; accordingly, not relishing his coercive state, we find, that in concert with the rest of the prisoners, he attempted to do this; and would have effected his purpose, but for the assistance afforded the keeper by some of the butchers in Fleet Market; in the scuffle, Madan was very near losing his life; he received a terrible wound given by a hanger, and had a loaded pistol put to his head by Mr. Akerman. This spirited conduct of the keeper, had the desired effect; and his ferocity became quickly softened into quietude: he had now heavier irons put on, and was thrown into the cells, where he remained, till he was sufficiently punished for the daringness of his attempt. We do not find that any thing further transpired, relative to the conduct of Madan, from this period, until within one day of the expiration of the 5 years, the time allotted for his confinement, when he was brought before the magistrates

gistrates of Bow-street, charged with having committed a robbery in New-Prison, with one Joe the Baker, to which place he had been removed : he took his trial for the same, but the evidence adduced in support of this charge, (the single testimony of the prosecutor) being considered as vague, and in conclusive, he was acquitted ; and the Judge at the same time reprehended the prosecutor.

Madan, once more regained his liberty ; this was in May 1780, but he held it only for a short time ; for in December, in the same year, we find him standing at the bar of the Old Baily ; charged, in company with two boys, with two capital offences ; the one for robbing a Mr. Swadle, of 27 pair of silk stockings, value 12 pounds ; the other for robbing Mr. Story of 4 gold watch-chains, value 20 pounds, ten garnet rings, value 50 shillings, &c. Of the first, he was quickly acquitted for want of evidence ; and was found as quickly guilty of the second, for the want of *character* ; for it is beyond a doubt, that no man, (as he expressed himself, when he received sentence) would have been found *guilty death*, upon the slender adduction of facts, which led to the establishment of his

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conviction. All London now expected poor Madan's execution, and concluded, that irrevocable destruction would fall on that culprit, who had been once respited at the gallows: but the Privy Council having reinvestigated his *case*; his Majesty, with that humanity, which is his distinguished characteristic, mildly thought proper to soften the rigour of his severe sentence, and snatch him once more from an impending ignominious fate; shewing this mercy, on condition of his serving in Africa for the remainder of his life.

We are heartily sorry in being obliged to add, that Madan has not conducted himself at all in a manner suitable to the important benefit so graciously bestowed. As the particulars of the late riots in Savoy have been circumstantially related in the public prints, we think it unnecessary to mention any thing further, than what has immediate connection with our work: viz. that in the riot, in which Madan, as has been deposed, took a very active part: three of the prisoners were killed by the soldiery, before the rest could be quelled.

We have now finished our account of Patrick Madan; and it is but common justice
to

to remark, that he has been more conspicuous in an extraordinary interposition of Divine providence in his favour, and an ungovernable impatience when under confinement, than for any remarkable or daring robberies; and we trust, that our readers will agree with us, when we assert, that his *celebrity* will greatly lessen, when his *actions* come to be put in competition with a *Sheppard*, a *Turpin*, or a *Colonel Jack*.

Our readers will recollect, that we promised in the course of this work, to say something concerning the direction of Royal clemency; but on reviewing the subject, we found it to be of too ample and delicate a nature for the limits prescribed in this pamphlet, which we trust will be considered as a sufficient apology for our omitting to say any thing upon that head at present; but we have reserved our thoughts on this subject, to furnish materials for a future publication.

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